

## Englewood Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes October 1, 2012

Present: Lynne Algrant, Darryl Green, Steve Wiessner, Toni Fay, Crystal Brown, Lorraine Cohen, Jack Silberman, Aleta Frezzell

Absent: Gerald Marion

Guests: Raymond Romney, Environmental Enforcement Officer/Recycling Coordinator, DPW

Meeting called to order 7:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

- Ray Romney advised that effective 10/22/12 leafs must be set out to curb no sooner than two days prior to scheduled pick up date. If bagged, you may call 24 hrs in advance. City of Englewood charges landscapers \$50 for a permit while other municipalities charge as much as \$200. Bags will be given out to residents next week in front of City hall. (5 bags minimum) Leafs left in street must make room for a water path and not be against the curb. Education needs to be done for homeowners and landscapers advertising that we have the lowest permit fee. A recommendation was made to compile a list of the best landscapers who comply and give an award as an incentive. Lynne will speak with Ken Alpert to see if there is space here in town for mulching. Some other towns are already doing this such as West Orange, Montclair and Tenafly which saves money rather than carting the leafs off. Difficult to get a sense of cost of leaf pickup as some overtime is involved. At present, there is no target date for stoppage of curb leafs. It was stated that EEC should advocate for leaf dumping and bagging in support of DPW's efforts. Ray will look into incentives for the business for compliance.
- Recycling – Ray advised that he is bilingual which has helped in educating some of the Hispanic population and he has seen improvement with less garbage and more recycling on Wednesdays. Would help if single streaming was done because of the heavy load and it would be less expensive or a wash. Englewood has four trucks coming per week inclusive of trucks on Wednesday for recycling. Single streaming would mean three trucks per week. If we go to the one arm bandit garbage trucks with the mechanical arm, we could reduce pickup to once per week for garbage and one day for recycling. This operation will be phased in and tested on one or two of the wards first. Each resident would get one free garbage can. Lynne will let the EEC know what the actual plan is.

Ray advised that he did not get much cooperation when going to the business rd to find out who their garbage/recycling haulers were. EEDC meeting coming up Wednesday night and Lynne will bring the subject up there.

- Lynne advised that we have ten months to apply for Sustainable NJ certification. The Commissioners reviewed the items that we submitted for the last certification. Under Community Education and Outreach we created a Green Team, community education such as sending out our recycling info on postcards, the Porchlight project, held a Green Fair, lead

safety training, NRI was completed on time, open space plans, recycling program, and tree protection ordinance and a few other items. We also used Englewood Style for local campaigns.

- Lynne recommended we do community outreach and education. In order to reach the 380 points needed we have to have several large items. Many are more policy driven and they could be directed by us and then we could target other items for a Green Team. Creating a green development checklist spearheading an effort to develop some construction codes that would encourage green building in the community would be good. Community planning and forestry goals - since a lot of this has been started, we could work towards completion. The Master Plan will include a lot of this. A Mayors wellness program was another suggestion.
- A definition of Complete Streets Program was given - consists of streets walkways, bike paths, crosswalks and thorough fares all safe , connect in a smart safe way and connect to other cities. Also - adjoining nature trail. Teaneck did this and could be asked to share with us.
- Lynne will look at the Diversity on Boards & Commissions.
- A grant was received to restore the McKay Park carriage house which is an historic building. This could be something we could use. We could also look at Animals in the Community and strengthening school arts programs. Tree Woodlands Management is another item and is listed with sub actions.
- Teaneck schools now have solar panels. We're in a six town consortium and could move forward and probably will within the next four or five months.
- Conclusion was we will pursue the tree assessment, look at arts and culture and strengthen arts programs.
- Lynne will create a spreadsheet and send us the link so that we may see the requirements. Darryl will email the EEC the most updated requirements for certification.
- Lynne gave out the following assignments:

Complete Streets Program – Crystal  
Municipal Planning & Zoning Self Assessment – Toni  
Tree Assessment – Lynne  
Diversity & Equity on Board and Commissions – Aleta  
Health and Wellness Initiative – Darryl  
Animals in the Community – Steve  
Greening Historic Buildings – Lorraine  
Strengthen Arts Program – Jack

This will help us decide which items we should give to a Green Team and which we should take on ourselves.

- The Mayor has asked that quarterly reports be given to the Council.

- The Commissioners were asked to look at our webpage to see if anything should be added and what our thoughts are.
- Lynne reviewed our recommendations for the Master Plan and read the consultant's response. The consultants will bring the recommendations to the upcoming planning meeting and share with the stakeholders. Overall, the recommendations were well received and Lynne sent them to the Mayor and the City Manager.
- It was suggested that we send out recycling information again as it is needed. Also discussion re entering info on the DPW calendar about what we are doing and helpful hints.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleta Frezzell, Secretary

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2012 in the 1st floor Conference Room at City Hall at 7:30 p.m.